

U.S. Department of Justice

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1-6-2-47-KB

Washington, D.C. 20530

March 21, 1983

William J. Anderson
Director
General Government Division
U. S. General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The Attorney General has asked me to respond to your letter of March 2 concerning the investigation of Klaus Barbie. As you may know, I have been appointed to conduct the Department of Justice investigation of this matter.

I have proposed to Mr. Tipton that, if he could postpone active pursuit of the Barbie phase of GAO's investigation until after the Department of Justice investigation is concluded, the Department would make available to GAO, subject to the third-agency rule, the records, documents and other evidentiary materials compiled in the course of our investigation. As you know, we must abide by the third-agency rule regarding classified documents, but the Department anticipates that it would not object to declassification and/or release to GAO of such records.

Mr. Tipton asked if he could submit to me a list of questions or subject areas that he would like us to propound to certain witnesses. I told him that I would be glad to receive this and that we would use it to the extent possible in conducting our interviews.

Under the foregoing arrangement, GAO would have the benefit of our investigation in determining its course in investigating Barbie.

Mr. Tipton and I further agreed that the Department of Justice would act as the liaison with GAO on all Barbie matters during the pendency of the investigation. Since we are now gathering documents from all pertinent Executive offices, this arrangement will simplify the eventual transfer of material to GAO.

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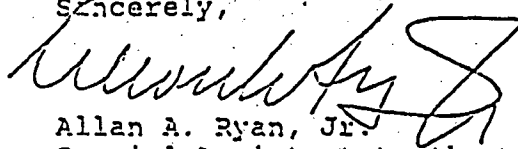
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I trust this agreement is satisfactory. Please be assured that, as in the past year, it remains our intention to cooperate fully with GAO in its reopened investigation of Nazis, and to do whatever we can to enable GAO to reach a full and informed basis for its eventual report to the Congress.

Sincerely,



Allan A. Ryan, Jr.
Special Assistant to the
Assistant Attorney General
Post Office Box 28603
Washington, D.C. 20005

bcc: Jim Schweitzer
Mark Richard